(b) the technical measures that are proposed to be taken to strengthen the portion of road under NH-52 between North Lakhimpur to Jonai to combat the flashflood rolls down from Arunachal Pradesh hill areas; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct overbridges above railway tracks in Assam at Changsari-Pahumara-Ahotguri falling on National Highways in Assam areas for the safety of roadways passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The stretch from Baihata Charali to North Lakhimpur (K.m. 0-345) of NH-52 is already double lane and the stretch from North Lakhimpur to Jonai of NH-52 (Km. 345—510) has been approved by the Government under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme—North East (SARDP - NE) for double laning. Preparations of detailed project reports have been undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation. The work has not started. The whole work is targeted for completion by March, 2009.

(b) Raising of NH-52 in vulnerable sections alongwith culverts and bridges have been included in the detailed project reports with necessary protective measures. The channelisation of rivers is to be done by the Water Resources Development (WRD) of Government of Assam.

(c) Yes, Sir. Over bridge above the railway tracks in Assam at Changsari, Pahumara and Ahotguri, along with 4-laning of East West Corridor under NHDP Phase-II programme would be constructed for which the civil works have already been awarded.

Sea transport system in North-East region

1130. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state whether Government have any programme for connecting the North-East area with sea transport system through Brahmaputra river inland waterways to promote trade and commerce of North-East with rest of India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): For promoting trade and commerce of the North-East with rest of India and abroad, the river Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 Km.) has been declared as a National Waterway and it is connected with the sea transport system at Kolkata/Haldia Port through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route consistng of waterways of Bangladesh and India.